

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-15 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02

SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

OMB-01 DRC-01 /199 W

----- 080458

R 271722Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5793

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: EEC, ETRD

SUBJ: COMMUNITY DUTIES ON COCONUT AND PALM OIL

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS A-320, 1973; B) EC BRUSSELS 4464;

C) EC BRUSSELS A-239, 1973

1. ACCORDING TO TRAN VAN THINH, COMMISSION OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH THE GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCE SCHEME, THE COMMISSION HAS PROPOSED, AND THE COUNCIL IS LIKELY SOON TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL TO HALVE THE DUTY ON COCONUT OIL FOR TECHNICAL USE FROM 5 TO 2.5 PERCENT UNDER THE COMMUNITY'S GSP (REF A).

2. TRAN EXPECTS, THAT DURING THE COURSE OF 1974 THE  
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COMMUNITY WILL ALSO DECIDE TO REDUCE DUTIES ON EDIBLE

COCONUT OIL BY 50 PERCENT. TRAN STATED THAT COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED MALAYSIA AND THE PHILIPPINES THAT THEY WOULD BE READY TO REDUCE DUTIES ON ALL COCONUT OIL TO ZERO SHOULD JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES ALSO DO THE SAME. COMMISSION HAS DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN OIL PRODUCERS WHO SEE NO OBJECTION, AND WHO DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FOREIGN COCONUT OIL WILL BE UNDULY COMPETITIVE WITH THEIR OWN PRODUCTION.

3. TRAN STATED THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD DO NOTHING NOW ON PALM OIL BECAUSE OF AFRICAN SENSITIVITY, BUT IT MAY BE ABLE TO REDUCE THE DUTY IN HALF AFTER THE CURRENT YAOUNDE NEGOTIATIONS AND IF THE US WOULD ALSO MAKE PLAM OIL DUTY REDUCTIONS. IN ANY CASE COMMUNITY IS EXPECTING TO BIND THE DUTY AT 6 PERCENT AS PART OF THE ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS (REF B) IN RECOGNITION OF A DEBT TO MALAYSIA.

4. TRAN HOPES THAT PALM OIL CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF PRODUCTS ELIGIBLE FOR THE COMMUNITY'S EXPORT GUARANTEE SCHEME (REF C). HARTMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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